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DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

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TAGS: [PREL](#), [KCRM](#), [PHUM](#), [KWMN](#), [SMIG](#), [KFRD](#), [PREF](#), [TU](#), [TIP](#), [IN](#), [TURKEY](#)
SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: TURKISH MEDIA ATTENTION, March 16-31, 2006

1. In response to G/TIP inquiries, national and international media sources published the following articles about TIP in Turkey. Text of articles originally published in Turkish is provided through unofficial Embassy translation.

2. Reported by Anadolu Ajansi on Friday, March 17:

TITLE: Ten foreign women captured in a prostitution operation in Silivri deported

BEGIN TEXT: The Istanbul Provincial Jandarma Command received a tip that a hotel in a district of Silivri was used for prostitution. The Jandarma raided the hotel.

During the operation, the Jandarma noticed that behind the hotel's restaurant there was a hidden room under the stairs where women who were forced into prostitution were kept. When the Jandarma went into the quarters, they noticed a door that looked like a wardrobe door. When they opened the door, they found six foreign women.

While searching the rooms, the Jandarma captured four more foreign women.

The women were sent to a hospital where it was determined that two of them carried Hepatitis C and one of them the Hepatitis B virus.

The ten women were deported. Those forcing them into prostitution were set free by the judiciary, to be tried on release. END TEXT.

3. Reported by FOCUS News Agency on Saturday, March 18:

TITLE: Second informal meeting of interior ministers in October in Turkey

BEGIN TEXT: The second informal meeting between Southeast Balkans Interior Ministers will be held in Turkey most probably in October, Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu stated in Varna today, Radio FOCUS-Varna reporter reports.

The Turkish Minister said that they had some very fruitful conversations at today's first meeting, which will greatly help overcome problems connected to human trafficking and drugs in Southeastern Europe.

Bulgarian Interior Minister Rumen Petkov announced that in April or May, Bulgaria will host the 25th Police Conference in which Interpol lecturers will also take part. He pointed out Bulgaria will also host the meeting of Southeastern Europe Police Force Directors in June. The purpose of this meeting is to improve the synchrony in information exchange and to form joint police teams for emergency cases, Minister Petkov explained. He added services to combat organized crime from neighboring countries would participate in tactical exercises connected to the fight against organized crime in November in Bulgaria. END TEXT.

4. Reported by Turkish Daily News on Monday, March 20:

TITLE: Turkey to host next ministerial Balkan meeting against terrorism

BEGIN TEXT: Interior ministers of eight southeast European countries have agreed to combine their efforts "to prevent acts of terrorism in the region." The ministers also agreed to hold regular meetings and set the next such round of talks for October in Turkey, Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu has announced.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Romania and Turkey "expressed their readiness not to permit any terrorist acts and to oppose organized crime and corruption," said a joint declaration by the eight ministers and a representative of Montenegro meeting in Bulgaria's coastal town of Varna.

"We once more voiced our determination in the struggle against global terrorism, smuggling and organized crime," Aksu was quoted as saying by the Anatolia news agency at a

joint press conference late on Saturday, while also noting that the meeting took place in "an extremely positive atmosphere."

Aksu said such meetings strengthened regional security and stability. "Taking into consideration the importance of the issues, we offered to hold the next meeting in Turkey. We are extremely happy that our offer was accepted."

Earlier, in an opening address, Bulgarian President Georgy Parvanov said that drug trafficking routes through the Balkans and corruption "cause the image of the region and its investment climate to deteriorate."

"The countries will improve their border control services to prevent trafficking in persons, as well as the smuggling of drugs, counterfeit currency and arms. At the same time, visa systems have to be eased to permit the free movement of people," Bulgarian Interior Minister Rumen Petkov was quoted as saying by Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"One objective is to prevent criminal elements from the Balkans from passing into the European Union," said Greek Interior Minister Vyrion Polydoros.

The eight ministers were ready to harmonize their legislation, share police training practices and set up mechanisms for information exchanges, he added.

Another meeting of Balkan police officials was set for June in Bulgaria. It will focus on coordinating the exchange of preventive information and will set up joint action teams.

In November, the countries' security service units will also meet in Bulgaria for joint training in combating organized crime, to be taught by U.S. instructors, Petkov noted. END TEXT.

15. Published by Hurriyet on Monday, March 20:

TITLE: Secret conversations

BEGIN TEXT: Hurriyet Ankara was able to get scandalous telephone conversation transcripts of Suna S., who has allegedly worked as a pimp for ten years. The police conducted an operation against her. Here are the minutes of her scandalous phone conversations with her clients:

ST (Male): Our H. likes them. I am very close to him. I was at his place yesterday.

Suna S: Our former Chief?

ST: Yes. He tours all the night clubs.

Suna: I know H. very well. He is a good person.

ST: He is not good at all. He f. and leaves everybody.

Suna: Good for him.

ST: Everybody and even A. earns money because of him. I am very close to A. as well. If you like, I can bring A., as I did M., to the house.

Suna: Yes, bring her over.

ST: Sure. Shall I also bring a skinny man who looks as though he has AIDS?

Suna: It does not matter (what he looks like); bring him over.

Black Mini Fantasy

CE calls Suna: CE: My room number is 420. I would appreciate it if she could wear a long coat over her mini skirt. I would also like to remind her that she should wear stockings and boots. She should be tall and have a beautiful face. I hope that the hotel administrators do not talk about this.

Suna: (Shouting at someone) Mine, the man asked for a mini skirt, black stockings and boots. Put something appropriate on. You will get \$200 for two hours. Plus, you will get the cab fare.

Stop and do not talk on the phone.

Suna talks to Esra N. about taking drugs and pills: Suna: Dear, what have you done?

E: As I was buying, they said that the others bought for themselves and I should, too.

Suna: Never, dear. What do they have to do with any of this?

E: How many was I supposed to buy?

Suna: You will take three pills and 20-30 YTL (approximately 15-22 USD) worth of hashish. Canan does not smoke.

E: OK. I will see you.

Suna: Take three and definitely buy hashish as well.

E: Be quiet. Why do you talk like this on the phone? Are you crazy?

Suna: Nothing will happen. Nothing.

Not with two people.

X (Female): So they are two. They want me to stay with two men?

Suna: Yes.

X: Is it an orgy? I will not do that disgusting thing.

Suna: So what?

X: No S. I will definitely not do that.

Suna: This is a business. I do not understand why you will not do it.

Find the right path.

A woman called C., who decided to work as a prostitute, calls the pimp to tell her that she wants to work. Following is that conversation:

C: How are you?

Suna: I am fine. What about you?

C: I thought about it and decided to work, no matter what.

Suna: In other words, you found the right path.

I would send you secretly.

Tugba: How is your business?

Suna: Not as good as it used to be.

T: I must have left right on time.

Suna: If you are going to begin, then you must begin right at the right time.

T: I was wondering.

Suna: If you want a few, then I would send you secretly.

T: OK, we will talk about it.

Can I pay later?

An academician who called Suna explained that he had not been paid and asked if he could pay her next month, expecting she would send a woman. They said:

OG: Mrs. Suna, I am academician M. I used to visit you a lot in the past. I am the academician. Do you remember me?

Suna: Sure I do.

OG: I want to have a fling tonight.

Suna: Certainly.

OG: How shall we do it? What are the prices?

Suna: Two hours for 270 TL (approximately 200 USD).

OG: Let me first get the money from the ATM and call you back.

Suna: OK.

After a while he calls back. OG: I have a problem with getting the money. Do you trust me?

Suna: I trust you, but what shall I give the girl?

OG: I will give you the money next week.

Suna: I cannot accept such a thing.

OG: OK, I understand.

Suna: Sorry.

The girl is very nave, but will get used to it.

Sedat: Your nuisance is calling.

Suna: I am going to call Ali.

Sedat: I brought the girl home. She went to see her child. She cried a bit. We talked about you and I told her that she would get used to this.

Suna: She certainly will cry and get used to this.

Sedat: I exaggerated a bit as I praised you. I told her that I would not have taken her to you if you were a bad woman. I told her that her father and grandfather gave her child a tour of the park. I asked her to listen to you all the time. I told her that if other girls ask her to do this or that, she should not, but listen to you. I told her she would suffer if not. I told her that I could not be her husband and that we were only friends.

Suna: I know. You told her the right thing.

Sedat: She is very worried about the child. She told me that she can no longer stand it. I told her that she should do this since she would get used to it. I told her that if she goes somewhere else, she would suffer more. She is so nave. I told her that you brought her a cell phone. I also noted that you do not do this for everyone. I told her that this was done because I know her. END TEXT.

16. Reported by Radikal and Sabah on Tuesday, March 21:

TITLE: Prostitution gang under detention

BEGIN TEXT: Boys between 12-17 years of age submitted a petition to the Izmir Chief Public Prosecutor and complained that a network, with which they met on the internet, on the phone and during face-to-face conversations, deceived them and took naked pictures and films of them. The ten gang members threatened the boys by saying they would show the pictures to their parents, and then forced them into sexual relationships with rich men in return for money.

The prosecutor sent the petition to the Vice Squad. The cell phone numbers of these people, whose names were given by the kids, were tapped for three months. Last Saturday, the police raided the addresses of the suspects at the same time and detained nine people. During searches of the houses and offices of the suspects, police seized many pornographic pictures and videos. The suspects will be sent to the judicial hall today after being identified by the boys. END TEXT.

17. Reported by Vatan on Wednesday, March 22:

TITLE: Send the girls, I will be careful

BEGIN TEXT: In an operation by the Istanbul Police called "Cat," 72 people, including 15 men - one who is an international human trafficker Ejder Toprak - and 16 women traffickers, were captured. As part of the operation, famous shoe owner, Sinan K., too, was detained for assisting and sheltering the organization.

The indictment against the prostitution ring also exposed the tragedy of women who were deceived by job offers from the Ukraine, Belarus, Russia and Moldova. Gang leader Ejder Toprak used to buy these women for \$2,000-3,000 per person, and then would sell them to another gang for \$3,000-5,000.

It was discovered that the girls were sent to Turkey by shadow companies established in the Commonwealth of Independent States to find jobs.

When Toprak's phone was tapped, he was heard talking to a woman named Tamilya, who sells women. The conversation went like this:

Toprak: Aliyona Hotel and ours are next to each other. A 17-year-old girl fled that place. There are not good clients at Aliyona. In Etiler, Sasha and Monikagot were together since there were no clients. There are no longer beautiful girls like before. If there were, we would offer them for \$500. In 2007, things will be hard because of the Schengen visa. We need to save money from now on. You ask for two girls. Let them come and then invite me over. Let me take the girls and share the money with you 50/50.

Tamilya: O.K. I do not need ten partners.

Toprak: During a raid in Atakoy, seven women were captured.

Tamilya: Which girls were captured? My girls are all accounted for.

Toprak: There was a sting. Do not send any girls anywhere near Atakoy. END TEXT.

18. Published by Vatan on Wednesday, March 22:

TITLE: I could not flee myself. She was saved by calling 157.

BEGIN TEXT: Valentyna Butkova (23), who was offered a job in Turkey, was brought from the Ukraine and was forced into prostitution for one month in Koycegiz, Mugla.

She was saved when she called the 157 hotline.

She was kept in a small place by threats. When she complained, Ali A., who forced her into prostitution, was captured and arrested. She said that he had forcefully kept two more girls, but they had escaped. END TEXT.

19. Published by Vatan on Wednesday, March 22, and also reported by Sabah and Cumhuriyet on the same day:

TITLE: Deceived with a cell phone offer

BEGIN TEXT: The Izmir Vice Squad, after following suspects since last November, disclosed exploitation of around 1,000 children between the ages of 12-17 in Izmir.

The police teams began the investigation following a tip by Ugur Dundar, editor-in-chief of the "Arena" program and after seven families notified the prosecutor's office.

The police began to tap the phones of C.G., the gang leader. C.G. had a tea house and did not have a criminal record. The police found out that he was using the web. The police entered the gang's pornographic and gay websites and negotiated with them.

The police managed to get an address for a meeting and raided many sites. Along with the gang leader C.G., ten more people were detained during the raids. During searches of the houses and offices of the suspects, police found around 1000 CDs and cassettes full of pornographic pictures of boys between 12-17 years of age. It was determined that the suspects met with the kids either on the web or on the street. They convinced the kids to have their naked pictures taken in return for money or a cell phone. Later, they blackmailed them into intercourse. END TEXT.

10. Published by Milliyet on Thursday, March 23:

TITLE: Two hundred women saved

BEGIN TEXT: In the first ten months, there were about 1000 calls to the 157 hotline, established by the International Organization for Migration, with the financial support of the U.S. Government, to save women who were forced into prostitution and to prevent human trafficking. IOM provided assistance to approximately 200 women as part of the campaign called, "Have you seen my mother?" and 81 of these women were returned home. Three out of four people who called the hotline were Turkish clients of these women.

According to IOM officials, in the first six months, 735 people called the 157 hotline. Since the New Year, 225 more applications were received. Most of the calls came from Istanbul, Antalya and Ankara. In recent months, the number of calls regarding Moldovan women has gone up.

Every three out of four calls to the hotline are clients of women forced into prostitution.

According to IOM's phone records, callers say, "The woman who is with me right now has no means of communication. She asked for help and said that she was forced into prostitution. They took away her passport and do not allow her to quit. She does not even know where we are now."

Following such a call, operators who received training for emergencies, take the address from the man and inform either the police or Jandarma in that region, who then carry out a raid to that site. If during that period the woman has left the site, then security forces keep an eye on the region for at least one month and when a woman is brought back, she is saved.

After the police take their testimony, the women are sent to IOM shelters in Istanbul and Ankara. Until now, the shelter in Istanbul has provided services to 183 women, and the other one in Ankara, which opened last November, has hosted 31 women.

Eighty-one of these women voluntarily wanted to return home. Women who are staying at the shelters suffer from stress,

sleep and personality disorders.

One of every three women is a mother.

IOM's "2005: Turkey, Human Trafficking Trends" report presents a scary picture on human trafficking. The report notes that one of every three women is a mother. It also notes that the illegal money involved in this trade is \$1 billion a year. It also states that last year they identified 469 human trafficking cases, but actually this figure was only one-tenth of the real number.

Sixty percent of these women come from Moldova and Ukraine. Most of them are between 19-25 years of age. The general belief that these women are university graduates was wrong. Most of them are secondary school graduates.

Women are being deceived by people they know. While they earn \$2 a month in their countries, they come to Turkey to earn at least \$3000 and 94 percent of these women are forced into prostitution. Most of the victims are in Istanbul, Antalya and Ankara.

She jumped out of the window to escape

Moldovan E. is a woman saved by the hotline. She arrived in Turkey when she was 19 and began to work in a shop. After a while, she went back home to see her mother. When she returned, her job had been taken over by someone else. Meanwhile, two of her friends, whom she met in Istanbul, invited her to Antalya. When in Antalya, her two friends went shopping. E. stayed behind with the boyfriends of her friends. They took away her passport and she was forced into prostitution. A few months later, she wanted to commit suicide by jumping out of a fifth-story window. IOM brought her mother from Moldova and medevaced her home. E. can now walk with crutches. In the picture, she is seen a few hours before she was returned home.

Search for sponsors.

The U.S. Government sponsored and the Government of Turkey supported the \$700,000 IOM project to raise awareness about the effects of human trafficking on children and families. The Italian and Swedish governments, too, gave important support to the project. But the flow of money for the campaign will stop in the coming months. The IOM is looking for support to continue the project. It talks to private and public sector institutions on the issue. END TEXT.

11. Published by Sabah on Friday, March 24:

TITLE: Great crackdown on prostitution

BEGIN TEXT: The Vice Squad, which took massage parlors, saunas and beauty salons under surveillance following the disclosure of the "Sauna Gang," carried out a series of operations and took administrative action against 62 locations. Judicial process is continuing against 152 people. Based on a report, nine offices were shut down in the first phase.

The Turkish National Police Vice Squad received tips in the first three months of this year and carried out raids on some saunas, beauty and massage parlors. They captured many women in inappropriate situations. It was determined that more than 400 massage and beauty parlors and saunas in Ankara were operating for prostitution and that when they were shut down, they were opening again under a different name. It was also determined that two of the massage parlors were not licensed and nine were involved in prostitution. Forty-one employed unlicensed masseuses. Action was taken against 17 men and women for prostitution, and 106 women for working without the proper license.

The Vice Squad carried out the second phase of operations against saunas. Judicial action was taken against one for prostitution and against seven for employing masseuses without proper credentials. The police discovered that one man and two women were involved in prostitution and 25 women were working without proper licenses.

The final operation was on beauty parlors. Police found that six unlicensed women were employed at three such places. One beauty parlor allegedly was involved in prostitution. Action was taken against one man and one woman for prostitution and against six unlicensed women.

Following the raids, the Ankara Governor's Office Committee on Venereal Disease and the Fight Against Prostitution, at the first phase, shut down seven massage parlors, four of which were unlicensed, one sauna and one beauty parlor. END TEXT.

12. Reported by the Turkish Daily News on Saturday, March 25:

TITLE: Police call for expansion of power to fight terrorism

BEGIN TEXT: Only a day after Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah called for changes in the Turkish Penal Code (TCK) and the Criminal Procedures Law (CMK) to ensure a competent fight against terrorism, police spokesman Ismail Caliskan revisited the matter and recommended additional time to keep suspects in custody when necessary, with the approval of courts or prosecutors.

Cerrah, speaking at the "Global Terrorism and International Cooperation" symposium hosted by the Center of Excellence Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT), said anti-terrorism laws need to be separated from the TCK and the CMK.

He agreed with the Chief of General Staff Gen. Hilmi Ozkok's assessment that the lack of any common definition of terrorism was the main reason international cooperation on the matter was lacking.

Caliskan, speaking during his weekly briefing, said they were studying an extension of the time suspects spend in custody and the right to conduct body searches and collect DNA samples. He said constitutional changes to extend broader rights to police on these matters were possible.

He also said that fingerprints and DNA samples needed to be collected in databanks.

The police spokesman said the Turkish police department had adapted to the times, adding, "Police officers are now university graduates. They are being educated in human rights. There may have been mistakes committed in the past, but no one should forget the fact that those who committed crimes were punished. I do not think the department will ever face the type of accusations it had to in the past. The reactions of our police officers to social disturbances are more scientific and controlled."

International cooperation:

In his speech on Thursday, Istanbul Police Chief Cerrah said terrorist groups had lost their main backers, noting that this has forced them to become involved in drugs and human trafficking. "Consequently, any toleration of terrorism also means tolerating drugs and trade in humans," he said.

"Cyberterrorism is also being supported by some countries," Cerrah said. "Everyone knows that the military codes used by countries for their defense are in the hands of computer hackers. Turkey has battled religious, ideological and ethnic terrorism for the past 30 years. Its experiences have shown it that terrorism has no religion, ethnicity or ideology."

He said Turkey's location has also made it into a target for radical fundamentalists.

The Istanbul police chief said anti-terrorism did not necessitate the imposition of limitations on rights and freedoms but noted that certain limitations imposed for reasons of national and individual security were not contrary to universal values or the Constitution.

Cerrah asked that the time suspects spend in custody be increased from two to four days, with the prosecutor's knowledge, and suggested that the courts be given the right to extend it to 15 days.

He asked for one to two-day delays for informing suspects' families when they are in their custody, noting that in some circumstances family members destroyed evidence. Among the other recommendations were no amnesties to terrorists, no court orders for seizure when terrorism cases are involved, a DNA and fingerprint databank and a specialized court that only deals with terrorism cases. END TEXT.

13. Reported by Radikal on Tuesday, March 28:

TITLE: Sixty detained in a prostitution operation

BEGIN TEXT: Following tips from locals, the Afyon police conducted a "Spring Operation" in Afyon and raided 19 houses and offices at the same time.

The Provincial police had been preparing for four months, under the supervision of the Governor and the prosecutor. The police teams raided 19 houses and offices in the city center at the same time yesterday around 8:00 a.m. With permission obtained from the prosecutor, the police opened some unanswered doors by breaking them down with a sledge hammer. Around 200 police seized all documents, money, steel cases and other goods. Most of the raids were on sites on Ambaryolu Street and the Orhangazi District. Tips

from locals were evaluated as well. The police took 41 women, most of whom were foreigners, and 19 men who forced them into prostitution, to the police station. Cars of those who were detained were searched as well. In one of the raided houses, police found a secret small room where ten people could hide. The police said that this place was prepared to hide foreign women in case of a raid. Ismet Baskoy, Deputy Chief of the Provincial Police, said that they would continue their operations and that they might detain others as well. END TEXT.

14. Reported by Hurriyet on Tuesday, March 28:

TITLE: They entered with a sledge hammer

BEGIN TEXT: Police teams wearing bullet-proof vests, after four months' preparation, began to raid 19 houses and offices at 8:00 a.m. yesterday. Unanswered doors were broken by sledge hammers after getting prosecutors' orders. Two hundred police searched the sites. All documents, money and goods were seized, and 38 women, most of whom were foreigners and who were forced into prostitution, were detained. Sixteen men who forced the women into prostitution and the women were taken by buses to the police station. In one of the raided houses, police found a small area to hide at least ten women.

Hotels were raided in Urgup

In an operation conducted by Nevsehir police, 29 women, including 21 foreigners, were captured in hotels raided in Urgup. After taking their testimony, authorities took the women by bus to Trabzon for their deportation. Eight Turkish women were released after giving their testimony. END TEXT.

15. Published by Sabah on Tuesday, March 28:

TITLE: Prostitution operation on houses with secret passages

BEGIN TEXT: The Afyon Police raided some addresses that it determined earlier and detained 66 people. It also spotted some secret passages in the houses. During the Spring Operation that the police conducted in the morning hours in eight districts, 28 Georgian, five Azeri and 11 Turkish prostitutes, plus the 22 men who were selling them, were detained. Police could only enter some houses by opening the doors with sledge hammers. Police found secret passages in some of the houses. They also seized a steel safe kept in the secret quarter of one of the houses. END TEXT.

WILSON